

**RECEIVED**

OCT 08 2015

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-15-52
October 9, 2015****LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice and hold a public hearing on the issuance of this permit. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau address or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT NAME: RC Resources, Inc.
7 Rock Creek Road
P.O. Box 1488
Noxon, MT 59853

FACILITY NAME: Rock Creek Mine

FACILITY LOCATION: Township 27N, Range 32W, Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35; and Township 26N, Range 32W, Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33; Sanders County

RECEIVING WATERS: Outfall 003: Unnamed Tributary to Miller Gulch
Outfall 004: Rock Creek
Outfall 006: Unnamed Tributary to West Fork Rock Creek
Outfall 007: Unnamed Tributary to West Fork Rock Creek

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0030287

The Department proposes to renew the MPDES permit for the Rock Creek Mine. RC Resources, Inc. has proposed to construct and operate an underground copper and silver mine located approximately five (5) miles northeast of Noxon, Montana, on the southern flanks of the Cabinet Mountains in Sanders County. Updates to the mine's design indicate that the comingling of storm water with process wastewater at Outfalls 003, 004, and 007 have been eliminated. Permit conditions and effluent limitations have been updated for the industrial storm water discharge from the facility. The permit contains effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and requires the implementation of

Best Management Practices. The permit also requires the permittee to develop and maintain a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to address and control storm water discharges. The draft permit incorporates technology-based and water quality-based effluent limits to ensure that any authorized discharges do not cause degradation of high quality waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 13, 2015. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 13, 2015 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

A public hearing will be held on the draft wastewater discharge permit, the fact sheet, the environmental assessment, and the Department's tentative determination on November 11, 2015, starting at 6:00 PM in the Noxon School located at 300 Noxon Avenue, Noxon, MT. While November 11, 2015, is a holiday, the building will be open and available for the public hearing.

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The administrative record, including the permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Jenna Stamper no later than **October 23, 2015**, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You may call Jenna at 444-3080 or write to her at the address noted to make your request known.

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